

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03955 150801Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----039646 150806Z /15

O R 150737Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8715
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3955

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, LE
SUBJ: SITUATION IN LEBANON: VIEWS OF MARONITE PATRIARCH

1. CALLED ON MARONITE PATRIARCH KHRAYSH AT BKERKE AT HIS REQUEST MORNING JULY 14. IN BEIEF, HE SHARES GENERAL PESSIMISM ABOUT SITUATION AND SAYS IT UP TO US TO GET SARKIS TO REACT. I TOLD HIM WE HAD MADE, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE, EFFORTS TO DO SO, BUT IN FINAL ANALYSIS WE COULD NOT MAKE HIM MOVE IF THE WILL WAS NOT THERE.

2. PATRIARCH SAID HE WAS SENDING BISHOP TO SEE SARKIS TO URGE HIM TAKE DECISIVE STAND. HE NOTED THAT SARKIS WAS COMPLAINING MORE ABOUT CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES THAN HE WAS ABOUT SYRIAN AND THAT HE HAD DRESSED PIERRE GEMAYEL DOWN IN HIS PRESENCE FOR KATA'IB'S OBSTRUCTIONIST ATTITUDE. HE SUGGESTED THAT I SHOULD TALK TO GEMAYEL AND CHAMOUN FRANKLY AND GET THEM TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT. HE NOTED THAT THEY WOULD NOT LISTEN TO HIM. I SAID I HAD ALREADY TALKED TO THEM, PERHAPS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03955 150801Z

TOO FRANKLY, BECAUSE THEY NOW REPORTED BE ANGRY WITH ME. DIALOGUE WAS FURTHERMORE COMPLICATED BY COMMUNICATION PROBLEM. I COULD NOT GO TO ASHRAFIYAH AND CHAMOUN COULD NOT COME OUT. IN ANY EVENT, FIRST REQUISITE WAS THAT SARKIS DO SOMETHING FOR WHICH SUPPORT COULD BE ASKED. PATRIARCH NOTED THAT SARKIS WAS A TIMID MAN.

3. PATRIARCH DISPLAYED CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT ATTITUDES MARONITE LEADERS ON QUESTION PARTITION. HE WANTED ME TO TELL HIM WHAT THEY INTENDED. I SAID IT HARD TO TELL AND PASSED QUESTION BACK TO HIM. HE SAID MARONITE PUBLIC OPINION INCREASINGLY FAVORED PARTITION, BUT IT WOULD BE DISASTER. IT WAS CHRISTIANS WHO HAD AGITATED FOR GREATER LEBANON, THEY COULD NOT NOW GO BACK TO PETIT LIBAN. CHAMOUN AND GEMAYEL KEPT TELLING HIM THEY WERE AGAINST PARTITION, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THEY WERE SINCERE.

4. COMMENT: IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT PATRIARCH, WHO IS REASONABLE AND INTELLIGENT, DOES NOT HAVE MORAL AUTHORITY OF HIS PREDECESSOR. IN THIS DIFFICULT HOUR LEBANON NEEDS EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP, AND IT IS NOT GETTING IT. PARKER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT03955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780290-0753
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780757/aaaabvtt.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f7d60773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1998345
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITUATION IN LEBANON: VIEWS OF MARONITE PATRIARCH
TAGS: PINT, PINS, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f7d60773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014